

Timing of Prophylaxis

- The antimicrobial agent should be administered within 60 minutes before surgical incision. ^{2,4,6}
- Some agents such as ciprofloxacin and vancomycin require longer administration time and should begin within 120 minutes before surgical incision. ⁶
- The aim of prophylaxis is to have maximum tissue antibiotic levels at the time of first incision. A single preoperative dose of antibiotic is as effective for majority of procedures. ^{2,5,6}
- Additional intra-operative dose may be required for:
 - a procedure longer than 4 hours or
 - Intra-operative major blood loss > 1.5 litres (Re-dose following fluid replacement).
- Patients who have suspected or documented infection at the time of surgery or within 48 hours post-operatively requires treatment course and not prophylaxis.